

Murray Arts Advisory Board
Minutes for May 18, 2010

Attendance: Elaine Judd, Mildred Horton, Mary Black, Judy Baxendale, John Madsen, Sharon Whitney, Wendi Miller, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Jennifer Davies, Kathleen Sorenson

1. Minutes for April 20, 2010 were approved as written.
2. Mary Ann reported that the Shakespeare festival went well with about 200 each night. We did not have as many schools participate. Upcoming schedule was reviewed. There will be no meeting in June. Boards and Commission dinner is on June 16.
3. Mary Ann reported that the the city ZAP grant was increased from \$48,000 to \$50,000 because the county had additional tax revenue.
4. The city has identified areas to cut budgets. They are trying to cut 3%. Production supplies and advertising budgets were cut. Mary Ann felt she could work with it. She was pleased they did not cut the grants because that had the potential to actually increase our funding and staffing needs in the future if we had to run the programs ourselves to provide these art opportunities for our residents. We will need to be creative on advertising to keep attendance up. Mary Ann reported that we are receiving more donations and encouraged board members to donate if they are able.
5. Mary Ann noted that a mural project is underway that was actually suppose to be done last year. Coordinated by Creekside alternative school, this project was paid by a grant from Art Access and was geared toward special needs. The mural will be under the tunnel at 5300 South along the Jordan River Parkway. The mural concept incorporates a Native American theme featuring petroglyphs in an environment similar to a cave. The design was simple because of those who will be participating and the wall of the underpass along the pathway has a bumpy texture and will be hard to paint on. The students have studied petroglyphs and have chosen 16 designs for 16 panels. City staff met with the artists to clarify some of the meanings of the designs. Mary Ann felt that a sign would help explain the artwork. If the public understands who painted it and what it means, it will be more appreciated. Parks staff felt a coating needs to be applied so graffiti can be removed. Board members like this idea.
6. Jeff Whitely from a performance series called Excellence in the Community has approached the Murray Theater about using their facility for a monthly concert series next year. This group focuses on Utah artists. They would like to know if we would like to sponsor it. It has been held at the Grand Theater. Attendance is about 300. Mary Ann told them we don't have money but could possibly include it in our advertising. The board was interested but wanted to make sure it didn't conflict with our other winter series events. Mary and Mildred suggested we start out with fewer concerts to see how it goes. Mildred suggested our season ticket holders get a discount to their series. Mary Ann has met with Murray Theater owner because the facility is underused and has become a location for rock bands. He isn't interested in piano recitals. It would be nice if we could use it more effectively for the arts but it doesn't work for musical theater or large groups like the symphony. Mary Ann has asked her tech people to look at this facility for low budget, non musical theater. We might try this once to see if we could cover all the costs including the facility. Parking has been a problem but they can use City Hall at night. Wendi wished they could show old movies but the screen has been removed. She mentioned that Davis County is building a

performing arts center that we should look at. The board was interested in looking at their design and how they funded it.

7. The city is discussing future use of the armory building in the park for batting cages or community rooms. There was some concern that if they use it for community rooms, how will that affect the performing arts center. Is there enough community demand for community rooms to have both and can we afford both. If needed, we should push to work with a new Hillcrest Jr High facility. This option may also allow us to apply for county funds because the county art facilities report suggested communities work with local school districts.
8. Board members liked the idea of offering comp tickets to volunteers again in August.
9. Our next meeting will be July 20.